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# TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

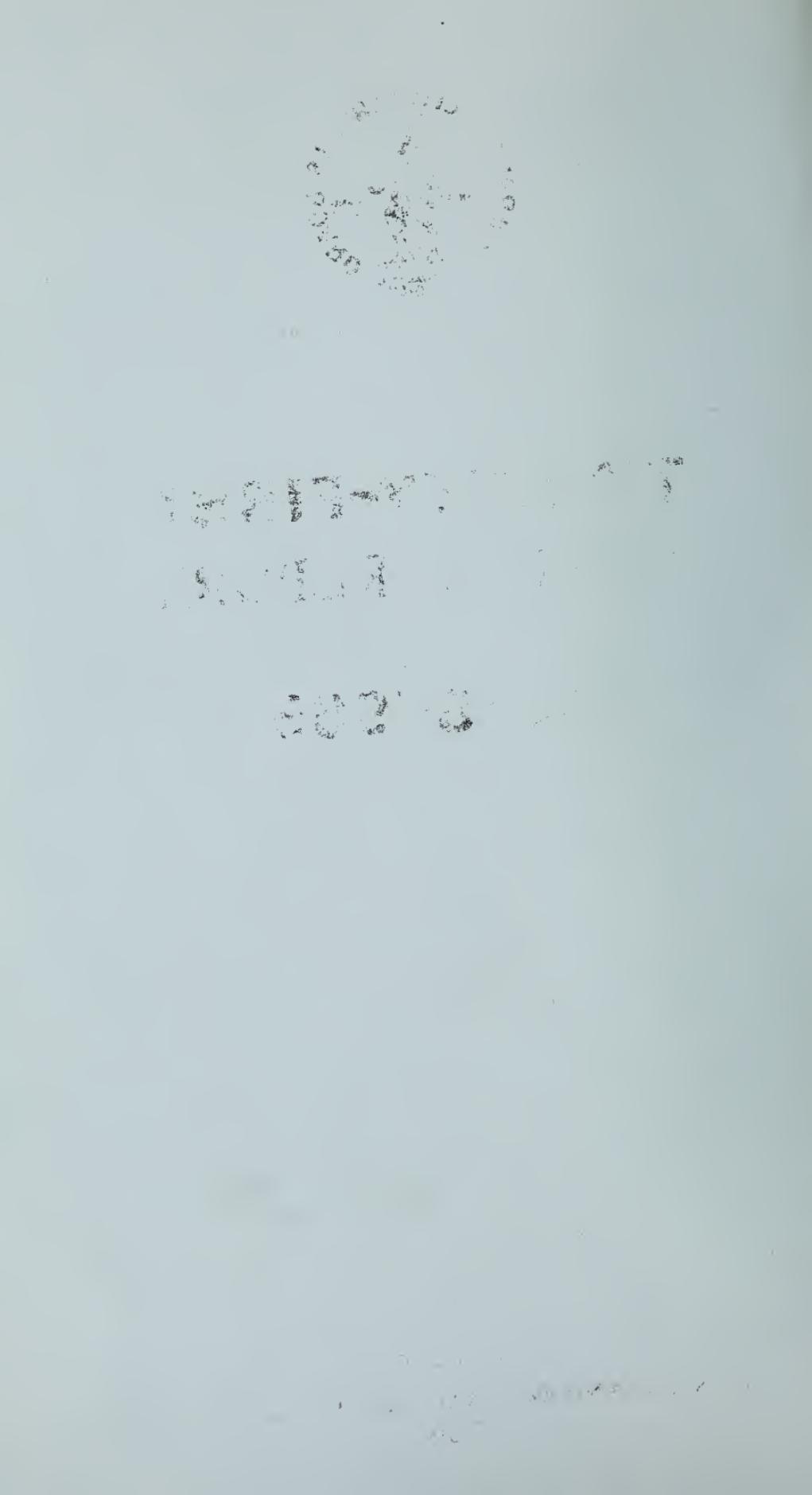
YEAR

## 1968-1969



BELFAST

NORTHERN IRELAND GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES BOARD  
1969





# **TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT**

YEAR  
**1968-1969**

Presented to the Minister of Health and Social Services  
in accordance with Section 70(1) of the Health Services Act  
(Northern Ireland) 1948

*BELFAST*

NORTHERN IRELAND GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES BOARD  
1969



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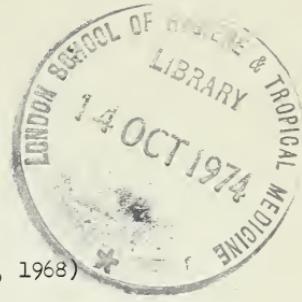
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NORTHERN IRELAND  
GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES BOARD

1968-1969

MEMBERS



J.P. Duff, C.B.E., J.P. (Chairman)  
A. Millar, O.B.E. (Vice-Chairman)  
A.E. Barbour, B.Sc., F.B.O.A. (appointed 1st October, 1968)  
W.H. Belford, M.D., F.R.C.S., M.R.C.G.P., J.P.  
(retired 30th September, 1968)  
H.G. Campbell, M.P.S. (retired 30th September, 1968)  
R.G. Chambers, L.D.S. (appointed 1st October, 1968)  
D.L.W. Chapman, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., M.R.C.G.P.  
T.W. Currie, M.P.S., F.S.M.C.  
G. Duffy, B.A., LL.B.  
T.H. Dunseith, L.D.S.  
H.W. Gamble, O.B.E., M.P.S. (appointed 1st October, 1968)  
H.W. Gooding, O.B.E., F.R.I.C.S.  
J. Hanna, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., M.R.C.G.P.  
V.A. Hewitt, L.D.S., F.F.D. R.C.S.I.  
(retired 30th September, 1968)  
Mrs. M.C. Miskimmin, M.P.S., J.P.  
H.H. Mitchell, F.B.O.A., F.S.M.C. (retired 30th September, 1968)  
J. Morrow, A.C.A., A.C.I.S., F.C.C.S.  
P. McAnallen, F.B.O.A.  
J.A. McMichael  
J.A. McMullan, L.D.S., F.F.D. R.C.S.I.  
Professor J. Pemberton,  
M.D.(Lond.), F.R.C.P.(Lond.), M.R.C.S.(Eng.), D.P.H.  
(appointed 1st October, 1968)  
J.McC. Rea  
J.G. Stinson, M.P.S., F.B.O.A.  
J.McA. Taggart, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H., D.P.A., F.R.S.H.  
C. Vance, M.B.E.  
Professor O.L. Wade, M.A., M.D.(Cantab.), F.R.C.P.(Lond.)  
Lady Wallace, O.B.E., B.A., LL.B.  
Lt.Col. D.G.C. Whyte, D.S.O., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.F.R., J.P.  
(retired 30th September, 1968)  
N.D. Wright, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., F.R.C.G.P.  
(appointed 1st October, 1968)

SENIOR OFFICERS

Secretary	...	...	G.D. Stewart, O.B.E., D.S.C., M.A., LL.B.
Assistant Secretary/Accountant			W. Birnie, A.A.C.C.A.
Assistant Secretary	...	...	A. Holland, LL.B., A.C.I.S.
Medical Adviser	...	...	R.P. Maybin, M.D., F.R.C.G.P.
Dental Officers	...	...	J. Boyd, L.D.S. (from 1st November, 1968)
			J.M. Colgan, L.D.S.
			J.D. Mayne, L.D.S.
			A.G. Rennie, L.D.S. (to 31st July, 1968)
Pharmaceutical Officer	...		A.W. Kernahan, M.P.S., D.P.A.
Ophthalmic Officer	...	...	F.W.R. Andrews, F.B.O.A.

HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS

Dental Branch	...	...	S.L. McCombe
Drug Pricing Bureau	...	...	R.G.P. McMullan, M.P.S.
Eye Services Branch	...	...	R.J. Wilson, A.C.C.S.
Finance and Secretarial	...		T.G. Laverty
Medical Branch	...	...	S.H. Foster



## I. FOREWORD

### Constitution

The Northern Ireland General Health Services Board are a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal constituted by Order of the Minister of Health and Social Services under Section 4 of the Health Services Act (Northern Ireland) 1948.

### Functions

It is the duty of the Board, subject to Regulations, to perform the functions conferred on them by the Health Services Acts (Northern Ireland) 1948 to 1967, and such other functions as may, for the purposes of the Acts, from time to time be prescribed or assigned to them by the Ministry of Health and Social Services. The main function conferred on the Board by the Acts is to arrange for the provision of General Medical Services, General Dental Services, Pharmaceutical Services and Eye Services throughout Northern Ireland and to administer these Services. The Board also have functions relating to Health Centres, Professional and Public Health Education and Doctors' Residences.

### Members

The Board consist of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and 22 other members appointed by the Minister. The members include persons appointed after consultation with the Medical, Dental, Optical and Pharmaceutical professions, Health Authorities, the Northern Ireland Hospitals Authority and other interests concerned. Not less than one-half of the number, excluding the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, are persons recognised by the Minister as representative of the Medical, Dental, Optical and Pharmaceutical professions in Northern Ireland and not less than one-quarter are medical practitioners.



## II. GENERAL

During the year a number of factors gave rise to altered administrative procedures and an increase in workload.

With effect from 1st July, 1968, charges were reintroduced for drugs and appliances ordered on prescription forms and dispensed by chemists. The charge of 2s. 6d. for each item is applicable to all patients except those in certain exemption classes, viz., persons aged 65 years and over, persons aged under 15 years, and those holding valid exemption certificates including expectant or nursing mothers and persons suffering from certain specified conditions. Additional staff were recruited to deal with the many applications for exemption certificates and to carry out a check on the authenticity of exemption claims.

The fee for sight testing by an ophthalmic optician was increased with effect from 1st December, 1968, involving the payment of arrears on 31st March, 1969.

Doctors' remuneration was increased with effect from 1st January, 1969, over a number of the headings under which they are now paid and arrears from that date have been calculated and will be paid during May.

With effect from 3rd March, 1969, prescribing by doctors and dentists and dispensing by doctors and chemists will be on the metric system and full details have been given to doctors, dentists and chemists as to the procedures to be followed. The new British National Formulary uses the metric system exclusively for all references to drugs, their formulation, dose and total quantity for ordering.

The chapter on Health Centres gives a clear indication of the considerable continuing interest in this development of the Health Services and meetings between Local Health Authorities, the professions and the Board's officers are taking place every week in some part of the province.

### Board membership

Seven members of the Board retired on 30th September, 1968, and two, Mr. Morrow and Dr. Taggart, were reappointed for a further three-year term. Dr. Belford, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Hewitt, Mr. Mitchell and Lt.Col. Whyte were replaced by Mr. Barbour, Mr. Chambers, Mr. Gamble, Professor Pemberton and Dr. Wright.

### Staff

The number of staff in post on 31st March, 1969, was 304, an increase of 18 on last year's figure. The turnover remained constant at around 20 per cent. Mr. Rennie, one of the three Dental Officers, resigned with effect from 31st July, 1968, and was replaced by Mr. J. Boyd on 1st November, 1968. Following a Whitley Council award to Health Services staff in Great Britain a general increase of five per cent was applied with effect from 1st April, 1968, to salaries in the Board; the last previous increase was in April, 1966. The Board welcomed suggestions for staff training included in a Ministry proposal to establish Staffs Committee machinery.

### Liaison

The Board's officers have had many meetings and discussions during the year with representatives of the professions. The Medical Adviser carried out regular visits to practices throughout the province and each Dental Officer visited dentists in his own area. Contractors are always welcome to visit the Board's offices to discuss their problems, and many do so.

There is regular consultation between the Board's officers and officials of the Ministry on all current matters of mutual concern.

Meetings are held at regular intervals between the Dental Estimates Committee and the Dental Estimates Boards of England and Scotland to ensure that policies concerning general dental services are uniform throughout the United Kingdom. The Board's professional Committees also from time to time hold meetings with representatives of the professions.

#### Legislation

Following the reintroduction of charges payable by patients for drugs and appliances, Regulations were made in November, 1968, under which the Board could issue prepayment certificates for six or 12 months conferring exemption from charges in respect of drugs and appliances on payment of £1.10s. Od. or £2.15s. Od. dependent upon the period to be covered.

Regulations prohibited doctors from supplying certain drugs to drug addicts unless specially licensed to do so and provided for special arrangements to be made with individual chemists for the dispensing of such prescriptions.

The Board are empowered under Regulations made in April, 1968, to make loans to general medical practitioners to enable them to provide or improve premises from which to provide general medical services.

### III. GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES

#### General review

The number of persons recorded as being included in the lists of general practitioners increased by 18,193 to 1,551,915.

The number of principals on the Board's Medical List was 745, a decrease of one. The number of assistants employed was 60, an increase of five. Two principals also act as assistants, a decrease of three.

The number of medical partnerships increased by three to 209.

The number of doctors engaged in partnership practice was 496. This represents  $66\frac{1}{2}$  per cent of the total.

The average number of patients on a doctor's list was 2,083, an increase of 27. By areas the figures are as under. The figures in brackets are those for last year.

	<u>Patients</u>	<u>Doctors</u>	<u>Average</u>
Belfast	517,933	233 (239)	2,223 (2,162)
Antrim	280,312	143 (139)	1,960 (1,963)
Armagh	120,882	61 (60)	1,982 (1,966)
Down	251,401	124 (122)	2,027 (2,033)
Fermanagh	53,786	35 (35)	1,537 (1,535)
Londonderry	180,546	80 (82)	2,257 (2,174)
Tyrone	<u>147,055</u>	<u>69</u> (69)	<u>2,131</u> (2,120)
Northern Ireland	<u>1,551,915</u>	<u>745</u> (746)	<u>2,083</u> (2,056)
Counties only	<u>1,033,982</u>	<u>512</u> (507)	<u>2,019</u> (2,006)

The number of principals in Belfast has dropped by 20 during the past five years to the lowest number since 1948. During the same period the number of assistants employed in Belfast dropped by eight. The number of patients included in the lists of Belfast doctors increased by 13,205.

In Co. Antrim the number of principals increased by 12 during the past five years to the present highest number.

The following table shows the present distribution of principals and assistants and the distribution in 1964, together with the figure of the increase or decrease of patients. The figures in brackets (beside the assistants) indicate the number of principals included who also acted as assistants.

		<u>1964</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>Increase or decrease of patients</u>
Belfast	Principals Assistants	253 28(4)	233 20(1)	+13,205
Co. Antrim	Principals Assistants	131 12(2)	143 13	+29,900
Co. Armagh	Principals Assistants	59 6	61 8(1)	+7,448
Co. Down	Principals Assistants	123 13(1)	124 7	+12,988
Co. Fermanagh	Principals Assistants	33 3	35 1	-847
Co. Londonderry	Principals Assistants	83 7	80 7	+10,706
Co. Tyrone	Principals Assistants	74 10(1)	69 6	+3,626

#### Control of entry into general practice

Admission to the Medical List continued to be controlled by the Board under the Health Services (Temporary Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 1950, and the Health Services Act (Northern Ireland) 1958.

During the year 14 principals died and 20 resigned. Of the 34 practices concerned, 18 were continued by remaining partners, and six were dispersed.

A total of 12 practice vacancies arose during the year, five from the deaths of doctors in single-handed practice, five from resignations and two in respect of new practices in the new city of Craigavon.

One vacancy was filled by an assistant as the logical successor and the other 11 after advertisement in the professional journals as follows: two principals already in practice in Northern Ireland applied and were permitted to transfer to two of the vacant practices; five of the remaining vacancies were filled by principals from practices in England, with one exception Irish doctors who wished to return to Ireland; the four remaining practices were filled by an ex-R.A.F. doctor, a doctor from the Local Authority Service with general practitioner experience, a newly qualified lady doctor who took over her late father's small practice, and one doctor who was an assistant.

The number of applications received for these vacancies was small and reflects the general world shortage of doctors. The situation seems unlikely to get any easier for a number of years and the Board are concerned about the prospects of filling future practice vacancies. Indeed a situation may well arise where, due to lack of applications from suitably qualified and experienced doctors, a practice which would otherwise be continued may have to be dispersed.

The increasing dependence on principals from England filling vacant practices gives rise to the problem of providing adequate deputising cover in the vacant practices until the new doctor can commence practice. These principals under contract to their respective Executive Councils must give three months' notice of intention to resign from their practices. In these circumstances doctors practising in the area of the vacant practices are called upon to carry the additional work of the vacant practices until the new doctors can take over. This happened during the past year and the situation created difficulty and inconvenience to the doctors acting as deputies. The Board record their

appreciation of the invaluable services rendered by these doctors.

The Board also record their appreciation for the valuable assistance given by Local Medical Committees in connection with the filling of practice vacancies.

Twenty-four assistants were admitted to the Medical List to enable them to join their principals in partnership, the same number as last year.

The total number of doctors who became established as principals in Northern Ireland during the year was 33.

#### Remuneration

On 1st January, 1969, increases in doctors' remuneration became operative as under:

	<u>Previous Rate</u>	<u>New Rate</u>
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Basic Practice Allowance	1,100. 0. 0.	1,150. 0. 0.
Standard Capitation Fee	1. 0. 0.	1. 1. 6.
Elderly Patients	1. 8. 0.	1.10. 0.
Temporary Resident Fee	1. 2. 6.	1. 3. 6.
" " "	11. 3.	11. 9.
Supplementary Practice Allowance	220. 0. 0.	230. 0. 0.
Supplementary Capitation Fee	2. 6.	2. 9.
Seniority Allowance	(A) 200. 0. 0.	210. 0. 0.
" "	(B) 200. 0. 0.	210. 0. 0.
" "	(C) 250. 0. 0.	260. 0. 0.
Rural Practitioners' Fund	Increased by 6 per cent to £149,200	

During the year schemes were made by the Ministry of Health and Social Services which provide for payment of certain expenses to doctors with limited lists, direct payment for ancillary staff not directly employed by doctors, and additional payment to women practitioners during confinement.

#### Public policy services

On 1st May, 1968, these services were extended to provide for the vaccination against measles of all children between the ages of one and 15 years.

#### Scheme for the direct payment of rent and rates

The purpose of the scheme is to reimburse rent and rates for practice premises from which unrestricted general medical services are provided by doctors. The basis of recoupment of rent is the current market rent as assessed by the District Valuer or the rent actually paid, whichever is less. Before reimbursement can be obtained in respect of new premises the accommodation must be accepted by the Board as suitable for the needs of the area. Practice premises may be visited by the Board's officers in order to determine the extent of accommodation to be admitted under the scheme.

The rent reimbursed excludes services provided by the landlord, e.g., heating, lighting, cleaning, etc., and the rates reimbursed exclude water rates.

During the year the Board made payment in respect of 496 premises. Of these 162 are separate practice premises owned by the doctors concerned, 100 are rented premises and the remaining 234 are doctors' residences from which practice is carried out. There are a further 83 premises on the Board's Medical List for which no claims have been

In addition to payments made directly to doctors under the scheme the Board pay for accommodation provided for doctors in health centres but again doctors pay for running costs such as heating and lighting. During the year 39 doctors practising from 22 premises moved to new health centres.

In approximately 70 cases doctors have requested the Board to review the amount of reimbursement proposed, in most cases submitting an independent valuation. The Board have referred these cases back to the District Valuer and agreement without further appeal has been reached in all but nine cases. In a further 13 cases doctors have exercised their right under the scheme to appeal to the Ministry of Health and Social Services either against the decision of the Board on the accommodation proposed to be admitted or the amount of the proposed reimbursement. Decisions in these cases are awaited.

Payments during the year amounted to £118,500 in respect of the period 1st January to 31st December, 1968. Of this £116,241 was paid directly to doctors and £2,259 to local health authorities for doctors' accommodation in health centres.

#### Scheme for the direct payment of ancillary staff

The scheme provides for the reimbursement to doctors of a proportion of the salaries and wages they pay to their ancillary staff engaged in certain "qualifying" duties, i.e., nursing and treatment; secretarial and clerical; receiving patients; making appointments; and dispensing. In addition, the Selective Employment Tax paid by doctors in respect of these staff is refunded. At 1st April, 1968, the limit attracting 70 per cent reimbursement by the Board of salaries and wages paid was increased from £500 to £600 per annum and above this figure reimbursement is 50 per cent.

The number of ancillary staff employed by doctors continued to increase. When the scheme was introduced on 1st October, 1966, there were 332 staff (mostly part-time) employed in less than 200 practices. By 31st March, 1967, the number of staff had increased to 375 and by 31st March, 1968, there were 412 staff employed by 266 practices. At 31st March, 1969, 290 practices employed 490 staff. Just over half the ancillary staff employed are full-time, working approximately 38 hours per week, the remainder being part-time, working five hours (the minimum for reimbursement) and upwards per week. Some 36 practices employ staff for nursing duties but the vast majority are employed in the receptionist/clerical category. The increase in the staff employed reflects the trend towards adoption of appointments systems in an increasing number of practices.

In addition to the staff employed directly by the doctors concerned the Board also make payments to Local Health Authorities for staff services provided for doctors in health centres. Although doctors in health centres may employ their own staff the indications are that most doctors prefer to arrange for the staff to be employed on a shared basis by the body sponsoring the centre.

The scheme has now been extended to cover certain ancillary staff (other than staff at health centres) who perform qualifying duties for a doctor but who are not directly employed and paid by the doctor himself. No claims have been received by the Board for this category of staff.

The amount of salaries and wages paid by doctors to their ancillary staff continued to vary widely from practice to practice. The Board, however, had to ensure that in making reimbursements under the scheme the salaries paid conformed to the Government's current Prices and Incomes Policy.

The cost of the scheme continued to increase due to more staff being employed, the raising of the 70 per cent limit from £500 to £600 per annum and a 50 per cent increase in the Selective Employment Tax.

Payments during the year in respect of the period 1st January to 31st December, 1968, totalled £125,348. Of this £122,100 was paid directly to doctors and the remaining £3,248 was paid to Local Health Authorities for staff services provided at health centres. In comparison, the amount paid by the Board during the previous financial year in respect of the 15 months from 1st October, 1966, to 31st December, 1967, amounted to £87,895.

#### Prescription charges

Regulations were made which took effect on 1st July, 1968, reintroducing charges for drugs and appliances ordered on a prescription form presented to a chemist or supplied to a patient by a dispensing doctor.

The charge is 2s. 6d. for each item ordered on a prescription form or supplied by a dispensing doctor.

The Regulations provide for exemption from charges for persons in certain classes. These are listed in the chapter on pharmaceutical services.

#### Metric system

On 3rd March, 1969, it became obligatory for chemists to carry out all dispensing in the metric system and doctors were requested to use the metric system when writing prescriptions from that date.

#### Appointment systems

The trend of introducing appointment systems for patients continued during the year when 20 practices comprising 42 doctors introduced systems covering 86,000 patients.

The Board assisted in the production and dispatch of the circulars for the patients.

The number of practices now operating appointment systems is 57, comprising 118 doctors and covering approximately 153,000 patients.

#### Doctor-Patient relationship

The number of patients who transferred to other doctors without change of address was 9,004, an increase of 15 per cent over the previous year.

The number of patients removed from lists at the request of doctors was 981.

The number of patients assigned by the Board because they were unable to obtain acceptance by doctors in their area was 108. The number of assignments increases each year and five years ago the figure was 18.

#### Advice to patients on the use of the Service

In December and January the Board carried out their annual publicity campaign on Ulster Television to remind the public that calls for home visits by doctors should be made where possible before 10.00 a.m. and that patients requiring treatment should attend at doctors' surgeries if they are fit to do so. The "Help your doctor to help you" pamphlet, which contains guidance to patients on how to make the best use of the Service and of doctors' time, continued to be enclosed with each new medical card issued.

### Complaints against general practitioners

Two complaints by patients against doctors were referred for investigation by the Services Committee. One complaint was withdrawn during the investigation and the other was dismissed.

### Use of the Service by persons from outside the United Kingdom

The number of applications accepted during the year in accordance with the Regulations governing entitlement to the Service from persons who arrived from areas outside the United Kingdom was as follows. The figures in brackets are those for the previous year:

Africa	...	...	377	(401)
Australia and New Zealand			595	(637)
Asia	...	...	549	(729)
Canada	...	...	708	(565)
Europe	...	...	609	(731)
Irish Republic	...	...	1,592	(1,558)
South America	...	...	57	(67)
U.S.A.	...	...	547	(623)

### Prescribing by doctors

In April and October, 1968, the Board issued prescribing statistics to doctors giving details of their prescribing costs for each month of a 12 month period.

### Dispensing by doctors

The number of doctors required to dispense was 65 in 47 practices. The number of patients on dispensing lists was 62,999, a reduction of 2,235 on the previous year.

### Disposable syringes and needles

The totals of disposable syringes and needles issued to doctors on request were as under. The figures in brackets are those for the previous year:

<u>Syringes</u>	<u>Needles</u>
<u>2 ml.</u>	<u>10 ml.</u>
433,300 (395,400)	79,050 (74,700)
326,900 (287,100)	306,600 (291,000)

### Administration

The volume of work in the Medical Branch was heavier than usual during the year.

The reintroduction of prescription charges with exempt classes of the public resulted in an increase in the administrative work of the Branch in the receipt and checking of application forms for exemption, the issue of exemption certificates, the issue of prepayment certificates of exemption to patients who paid for them, and the checking of claims to exemption on prescriptions dispensed.

In accordance with directions from the Ministry a stated percentage of prescriptions dispensed on which exemption had been claimed under the various classes of exemption were checked to verify the patients' entitlement to exemption. This resulted in a very large volume of work in the tracing of records and in correspondence with patients.

To carry out this work the Board recruited additional staff and set up a new Section in the Branch. A reduction in the number of prescription forms to be checked has recently been agreed and this will result in a decrease in the volume of this work and in the number of staff employed on it.

The number of application forms for exemption received was 34,500 and the number of exemption certificates issued was 32,819. The number of prepayment certificates issued was 1,283, and the total number of prescription forms received for checking was approximately 20,000.

The total number of claims from doctors for payment for vaccinations, immunisations, night visits, and cytology tests increased from 60,000 last year to 97,000. This increase is largely due to the new provision for vaccination against measles and a large increase during the winter in the number of claims for smallpox vaccination following publicity of the need for this protection. Vaccination against poliomyelitis was encouraged following notifications of this disease during the period.

The very high number of vacant practices filled or dispersed greatly increased the administrative work. The patients of 27 doctors who died or resigned were block transferred to remaining partners or newly admitted doctors involving an alteration in the records of 55,500 patients.

The total number of patients placed on doctors' lists was 175,500, and the total number removed was 157,400.

Approximately 20,800 members of the public called at the Medical Branch with enquiries or to obtain duplicate medical cards.

Approximately 47,000 duplicate medical cards were issued to replace those lost or destroyed. The total number of medical cards issued was approximately 165,000.

The inflation of doctors' lists continues to be a problem due to the impossibility of ascertaining and accurately identifying the records of all persons whose names should be removed from the lists. The number of persons registered on doctors' lists was 2.5 per cent higher than the latest estimate of the population.

Staff wastage continued to be high. In connection with the re-introduction of prescription charges it was necessary during the summer to recruit a number of temporary staff, mostly young students, who were replaced in the autumn through normal recruitment. Full output and efficiency are obtained only after training and experience and the output of staff who teach new members is reduced during training periods.

Accommodation within the Branch has become a problem and it was necessary to accommodate staff temporarily in another part of the building.

#### Registration Department

The department is responsible for the alphabetical register containing one-and-a-half million record cards.

Work flows daily to the department from the Medical, Dental and Eye Services Branches.

Medical Branch records are traced in respect of patients removed from doctors' lists on death, emigration or transfer and for other administrative action.

All applications for treatment by Dental and Eye Services Branches are passed to the department for tracing in the register and for the notation of certain information both on the record cards and the forms.

During the year the following work was completed:

Medical Branch

Records traced for administrative reasons	...	...	...	180,000
New records filed	...	...	...	53,000

Dental Branch

Forms traced	...	...	...	...	...	...	592,000
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Eye Services Branch

Forms traced	...	...	...	...	...	...	180,000
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In addition, approximately 20,000 cases were further investigated for Dental and Eye Services Branches following additional information from patients whose records could not be traced initially.

Professional and Public Health Education

During the year under review the Postgraduate Education Board arranged 10 courses of one week's duration, 11 two-day courses, four one-day courses, and three extended courses in addition to a number of clinical attachments. Most of the courses covered general subjects but there were also some on specialities.

Altogether 660 doctors attended, including 111 from Great Britain, while a number of Northern Ireland doctors attended courses in Great Britain. The Board are responsible for payment of travelling expenses and subsistence allowances to doctors attending courses here.

A postgraduate training allowance is made to each eligible doctor who attends a stipulated number of sessions over a five-year period, while doctors eligible for seniority allowances must attend a number of sessions to qualify them for payment of the allowance.

The arrangements for evening lectures on Modern Treatment are now the responsibility of the Postgraduate Education Board.

#### IV. GENERAL DENTAL SERVICES

##### Dental List

At the beginning of the year the number of dental practitioners on the Board's List was 326. After additions and withdrawals the number at the end of the year was 332.

Figures showing the number of dental partnerships, dental assistants and employment of assistants are included in the Statistical Report - Appendix "C".

##### Applications for treatment

The number of applications received showed an increase over the previous year of 8,295 (1.4 per cent). Applications received in each month of 1968-69 are shown below in comparison with the figures for the previous year:

		<u>1967-68</u>	<u>1968-69</u>
April	...	49,202	48,287
May	...	53,854	55,397
June	...	49,920	45,584
July	...	40,433	46,907
August	...	44,434	45,199
September	...	49,826	49,474
October	...	50,167	55,453
November	...	52,077	50,261
December	...	43,878	46,799
January	...	52,193	51,212
February	...	47,527	48,254
March	...	<u>49,584</u>	<u>48,563</u>
		583,095	591,390

The number of dental forms resubmitted was 79,881, making a total intake of 671,271.

##### Cost of Services

Payments to dentists during the year were as follows:

		<u>Number of forms</u>	<u>Gross amount</u>	<u>Payable by patients</u>	<u>Paid by Board</u>
<u>1968</u>					
April	...	46,877	£ 210,407	28,319	182,088
May	...	52,086	231,401	31,544	199,857
June	...	49,588	214,242	28,184	186,058
July	...	52,541	233,796	33,805	199,991
August	...	47,449	207,544	31,526	176,018
September	...	42,538	171,298	24,550	146,748
October	...	50,239	196,547	28,872	167,675
November	...	53,302	224,486	33,195	191,291
December	...	52,365	221,756	33,028	188,728
<u>1969</u>					
January	...	50,545	223,743	33,917	189,826
February	...	45,725	189,302	25,501	163,801
March	...	<u>51,879</u>	<u>224,623</u>	<u>31,413</u>	<u>193,210</u>
		595,134	£2,549,145	£363,854	£2,185,291

The average gross cost of treatment per form was £4. 5s. 8d., of which £3.13s. 5d. was met by the Board and 12s. 3d. by the patient. The average gross cost last year was £4. 5s. 1d.

## Demands on the Service

The demand for dental services has increased rapidly in recent years. While the population increased between 1960 and 1968 by approximately six per cent, the number of dental claims paid increased from 366,000 to 584,000, i.e., by 59 per cent. The average contribution paid by the patient during this period has remained fairly constant (at about 11s. Od.) while the cost per course of treatment to the Board has increased by 13s. 8d., i.e., by 23 per cent.

## Replacement of dentures and orthodontic appliances

Applications for free replacement of lost or damaged dentures and the replacement of orthodontic appliances numbered 125. Of these six were approved on payment of normal charges, 26 free-of-charge, 89 on payment by the patient of the full cost of replacement and four on payment of part of the cost. Further representations were made by seven persons on the grounds of hardship and in five of these cases the Board paid the full cost.

The number of applications has fallen considerably since Regulations in September, 1967, relaxed the requirement that replacements should have the prior approval of the Committee and allowed them on payment of normal charges.

## Examination of patients by Dental Officers

During the period 300 examination sessions were held throughout the province. Out of 3,177 patients called for examination only 1,845, or 58 per cent, attended. Of these 649, or 35 per cent, were examined prior to treatment and 1,196, or 65 per cent, after treatment had been completed. The total number of examinations carried out amounted to 0.4 per cent of the total number of applications received.

## Supplementary Benefits Commission grants

The Board act as paying agents for the Supplementary Benefits Commission in respect of grants for dental treatment involving dentures and 7,779 grants, an increase of 485 on last year, involving a sum of £36,806, were paid to dentists during the period.

## Uncompleted treatment

The cost of dentures which patients failed to collect was £348.16s. 9d., and the cost of orthodontic treatment which patients failed to carry through to a conclusion was £1,438. 5s. 6d. The Board continue to do everything possible to avoid public funds being wasted on uncompleted treatment.

## More expensive forms of treatment

During the year 48 patients requested and accepted financial responsibility for some special forms of treatment which were not clinically necessary.

## New Regulations

On the 1st May, 1968, new Regulations provided for an increase in the maximum charge to patients for dental treatment, other than the supply of dentures, from £1. Os. Od. to £1.10s. Od. Charges for dentures were unchanged.

## Payments to dentists

From October, 1968, payments to dentists were despatched on the second last Wednesday of the month instead of the last Wednesday.

### Liaison with the profession

In addition to their duties on approval of estimates and examination of patients, the Dental Officers continued to maintain a close liaison with dentists throughout the province. Many visits were made to dentists' surgeries mainly in clarification of points arising in the working of the service.

Several meetings were arranged by groups of dentists and Local Dental Committees to which the Dental Officers were invited and at which general discussions took place on the problems and difficulties which can so easily arise from time to time in general practice. The Board's administrative officers also had discussions with a number of dentists.

### Liaison with Great Britain

In April, 1968, a conference was held in Eastbourne with representatives of the English and Scottish Dental Estimates Boards which was attended by the Chairman and two members of the Dental Estimates Committee, the Board's Secretary and the officer in charge of Dental Branch. All three bodies provided items for the agenda.

### Staff

The post of Dental Officer became vacant on 31st July, 1968, following the resignation of Mr. A.G. Rennie. Mr. J. Boyd, L.D.S., was appointed to fill the vacancy and took up duty on 1st November, 1968. Mr. E.A. Kerr, a former Dental Officer, was employed during the period the post was vacant.

### Publications

A bulletin designed as a reference guide for dentists taking part in general dental services was issued in October, 1968.

A leaflet "Your Guide to Dental Treatment under the Health Services" was issued in January, 1969, for distribution to the general public.

### Talks

During the year a number of dentists' receptionists were welcomed to Dental Branch to acquaint themselves with the administration of general dental services, also a number of students training as dental surgery attendants and receptionists at the Rupert Stanley College of Further Education.

### Refresher courses

During the year the postgraduate programme for dental practitioners at the School of Dentistry, Royal Victoria Hospital, included extended courses on Prosthetics, Orthodontics and Periodontics. An extended course on Oral Surgery was held at Daisy Hill Hospital, Newry, and a two-day course on Orthodontics at the Waveney Hospital, Ballymena.

### Appeals against decisions of the Dental Estimates Committee

Four appeals were lodged with the Ministry of Health and Social Services. One against administrative procedure was not heard, one was disallowed and a decision in each of the other two cases is awaited.



## V. PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES

### Pharmaceutical List

The number of chemists providing pharmaceutical services decreased by eight to 601, while the number of shops operated by them decreased by four to 650.

The number of persons included in the List to supply appliances only decreased by three to 12 and the number of shops operated by them also decreased by three to 14.

While a number of chemists' shops was opened in new estates, most of these premises are in areas already adequately served by chemists.

### Demands on the Service

The following table shows the number of prescription forms and prescriptions dispensed each month for this year and last year:

Month	Number of prescription forms dispensed		Percent-age increase or decrease	Number of prescriptions dispensed		Percent-age increase or decrease
	1967-68	1968-69		1967-68	1968-69	
April	532,085	560,117	+ 5.27	830,065	889,672	+ 7.18
May	572,662	603,369	+ 5.36	889,854	954,280	+ 7.24
June	541,615	560,815	+ 3.54	838,555	895,958	+ 6.85
Charges reintroduced 1st July, 1968						
July	472,874	437,361	- 7.51	736,732	664,325	- 9.83
August	489,975	449,992	- 8.16	764,879	681,226	-10.94
September	545,884	501,078	- 8.22	850,943	758,834	-10.82
October	579,418	564,687	- 2.54	892,896	858,085	- 3.90
November	584,655	554,031	- 5.22	926,361	847,132	- 8.55
December	555,590	556,901	+ 0.24	886,574	859,280	- 3.08
	1968	1969		1968	1969	
January	683,005	611,651	-10.45	1,094,045	943,980	-13.70
February	620,831	556,317	-10.39	989,324	859,000	-15.11
March	624,511	608,012	- 2.64	994,555	940,112	- 5.47
Total	6,803,105	6,564,331	- 3.51	10,694,783	10,151,834	- 5.02

The number of prescription forms dispensed during the year decreased by 238,774, or 3.51 per cent, compared with last year (1967-68) but was greater than the number dispensed during the years 1965-66 and 1966-67 by 118,563, or 1.84 per cent, and 220,582, or 3.48 per cent, respectively.

Prescription charges were reintroduced at the rate of 2s. 6d. per prescription (i.e., item) on 1st July, 1968. However, a number of classes of persons were exempt from paying the charge. These classes are:

- (a) Persons under 15 years of age.
- (b) Persons over 65 years of age.
- (c) Persons suffering from certain specified diseases who hold an exemption certificate.
- (d) Expectant mothers and mothers of a child under one year who hold an exemption certificate.
- (e) War pensioners in respect of treatment for their war disability only who hold an exemption certificate.
- (f) Persons who hold an exemption certificate issued by the Ministry of Health and Social Services (this class includes persons on supplementary benefit and those on long-term sickness or unemployment benefit).

From the 18th November, 1968, an additional category was added, that is, persons holding a valid prepayment certificate. Prepayment certificates are issued by the Board to any person who applies and pays the appropriate fee, that is, £1.10s. Od. for a certificate valid for six months and £2.15s. Od. for 12 months.

The result of the exemptions listed above is that no charges are payable on just over 50 per cent of the prescription forms dispensed. To claim exemption the patient or his representative (or if a child, the parent or guardian) must complete a declaration on the back of the prescription form and indicate the reason for exemption. The working of this provision has involved the pharmacists and their staffs in extra work, as many persons fail to complete the declaration before presenting their prescription form for dispensing and seek advice and assistance.

The number of prescription forms and prescriptions dispensed during the first three months of the period under review, April to June, 1968, increased by 77,939, or 4.73 per cent, compared with last year, no doubt in anticipation of the introduction of charges on 1st July, 1968. The remaining nine months of the year all showed a reduction in the number of prescriptions and, except for a very small rise in December, a reduction in the number of prescription forms dispensed compared with last year. These reductions can largely be attributed to the prescription charges. The number of prescription forms dispensed during these months (July, 1968, to March, 1969) was reduced by 316,713, or 6.14 per cent, compared with last year, while the number of prescriptions written on those forms showed an even greater reduction of 724,375, or 8.90 per cent, reflecting a fall in the average number of prescriptions per form. The average number of prescriptions per form was 1.598 in June, 1968, the last month without charges, but this fell to a figure of 1.519 in July, 1968, the first month with the charges. By February, 1969, the figure had risen again somewhat and was 1.544 prescriptions per form, which would tend to indicate that the effect of the charges was wearing off.

The average number of prescription forms per patient on doctors' prescribing lists for this year was 4.421 compared with 4.645 last year, a decrease of 4.82 per cent. The difference in this figure compared with the reduction of 3.51 per cent in the number of forms dispensed reflects the rise in the number of persons on doctors' prescribing lists.

#### Cost of the Service

The following table shows the cost per head, per form and per prescription for each month of the year and a comparison with the previous year. The average cost per head is the total cost divided by the number of persons on doctors' prescribing lists:

Month	1967-68 Gross average cost			1968-69 Gross average cost		
	Per head	Per form	Per prescription	Per head	Per form	Per prescription
	<u>1967</u>			<u>1968</u>		
April	6/10.90	18/10.11	12/0.94	7/8.05	20/1.63	12/8.12
May	7/4.76	18/8.92	12/0.75	8/3.66	20/2.85	12/9.55
June	7/1.41	19/0.84	12/3.81	8/2.19	21/5.44	13/5.14
	<u>Charges reintroduced 1st July, 1968</u>					
July	6/3.93	19/5.89	12/6.12	6/3.89	21/3.94	14/0.50
August	6/6.89	19/6.53	12/6.24	6/7.25	21/7.77	14/3.59
September	7/1.74	19/0.79	12/2.77	7/1.78	21/0.50	13/10.73
October	7/5.05	18/8.70	12/1.81	7/10.68	20/8.22	13/7.35
November	7/8.33	19/2.90	12/1.73	7/9.72	20/10.44	13/7.79
December	7/4.93	19/6.03	12/2.66	7/10.68	20/11.70	13/7.13
	<u>1968</u>			<u>1969</u>		
January	8/11.97	19/3.52	12/0.53	8/9.25	21/3.46	13/9.53
February	8/1.52	19/2.05	12/0.36	7/11.30	21/2.34	13/8.72
March	8/3.94	19/6.37	12/3.17	8/8.96	21/4.28	13/9.75

As forecast in last year's report the average cost per form reached the figure of 20s. Od. this year, being 20/1.63d. in the first month, April, and continued to increase sharply reaching 21s. 5½d. in June and 21s. 7¾d. in August, a much steeper rise than last year. This was undoubtedly due to the reintroduction of the prescription charges from 1st July. The figure fell during the autumn to below 21s. Od. but was again above 21s. Od. in the winter months January to March. Even though about 50 per cent of the prescription forms were exempt from the prescription charges, doctors have ordered larger quantities on prescriptions. Last year the average cost per prescription was fairly stable throughout the year, between 12s. Od. and 12s. 6d., but this year costs rose steeply to 13s. 5d. in June, the month before the charges were reintroduced, and reached 14s. Od. in July. The cost per prescription fell again during the autumn to 13s. 7d., but at the end of the period it was still about 1s. Od. higher than last year. The net cost to the Board of each prescription was, of course, about 1s. 3d. below the figures shown above for the months of July, 1968, to March, 1969, due to the prescription charge, and this means that the net cost rose on average by only 3d. over last year.

Due to the reduction in the number of prescriptions issued, the average cost per head from July, 1968, to March, 1969, was very similar to last year, a couple of months being a little higher but the majority being the same and some slightly below last year.

In order to assist doctors to assess the claims made by manufacturers for their pharmaceutical products, the Board again issued to all doctors each fortnight the independent publication "The Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin" while the Ministry of Health in London sent to all doctors the bi-monthly publication "Prescribers' Journal".

To assist doctors to secure economy in prescribing the Board issued to all doctors a number of histograms and other information prepared by the Ministry of Health, London, showing the costs of drugs within selected groups, and the Board also issued to each doctor twice during the year statistical information obtained by computer regarding the prescribing of groups of drugs in his practice, his area and in Northern Ireland.

All doctors were informed in April, 1968, of the cost of their prescribing for each of the six months July to December, 1967, and a comparison given with costs in their area and in Northern Ireland. In October, 1968, similar details were issued for each of the six months January to June, 1968.

#### Remuneration of chemists

Following on the discussions between the Ministry of Health and Social Services and the representatives of pharmaceutical chemists last year when it was agreed that remuneration of chemists should be increased by 2.33d. per prescription, further discussions took place this year to introduce revised rates of dispensing fees and oncost allowance which would incorporate the increase of 2.33d. per prescription in payments.

From the 1st May, 1968, a revised scale of dispensing fees, which increased the fee in most cases by about 3d. per prescription, was introduced, together with a revised rate of oncost which overall reduced the oncost payable. The new rate is 30 per cent on the first 250 prescriptions, 25 per cent on the next 250, 17½ per cent on the next 250, 12½ per cent on the next 250 and 10.07 per cent on the remaining prescriptions, calculated as a composite rate on all prescriptions. The effect of these charges is to give a higher payment per prescription to the small contractor and less to the large contractor.

In the last financial year the additional 2.33d. per prescription was paid for prescriptions dispensed up to the end of November, 1967. Payment at the same rate for the months December, 1967, to April, 1968, inclusive, was made in July, 1968. The additional payment for December, 1967, and January, 1968, prescriptions related, of course, to prescriptions paid in the last financial year, while that for the months February to April, 1968, relates to the current financial year.

The reintroduction of prescription charges on 1st July, 1968, involved pharmacists in additional work and, after negotiations between the Ministry of Health and Social Services and representatives of the pharmaceutical profession, it was agreed that an additional payment of 1.6d. per prescription for the first three months of the scheme, that is, July to September, 1968, inclusive, would be paid and from October, 1968, an interim payment of 0.5d. per prescription would be paid pending a review of remuneration. It was also agreed that an additional 0.05d. per prescription should be paid from 1st July, 1968, to cover the cost of any charges which the chemist was unable to collect. These additional payments were included in the payments made to chemists for each month from 1st July, 1968.

The amount paid to chemists by the Board during the year was £6,556,013, this sum being the net amount due to chemists after deducting £323,017 for charges collected and retained by chemists. This sum includes the additional payment of £27,732 made in respect of prescriptions dispensed between February and April, 1968. In addition arrears of £18,991 relating to prescriptions dispensed in December, 1967, and January, 1968, were paid, and £9,172 was paid to chemists in Belfast and a number of other towns in the province for the provision of rota service after normal hours.

The total amount which chemists received during the year in respect of pharmaceutical services was, therefore, £6,907,193, an increase of £49,592, or 6.30 per cent, over the amount received last year. Of this increase almost £19,000 relates to the previous year, while the remainder is accounted for by the rise in the average cost per prescription, partly offset by the reduction in the number of prescriptions.

Since over 71 per cent of the amount received by chemists represents the cost of ingredients and containers used in dispensing prescriptions.

The amount of the Special Advance held by chemists outstanding at 31st March, 1969, was £344,307, a reduction of £5,828 compared with the amount outstanding last year. This reduction is mainly due to the closure of a number of shops during the year but a small part is accounted for by the reduction of the Special Advance in a few cases where the pattern of dispensing has been markedly reduced.

The payments made during the year were for prescription forms dispensed between 1st February, 1968, and 31st January, 1969, the number of forms being 6,645,344, a decrease of 14,791, or 0.22 per cent, over the same period last year, while the number of prescriptions written on those forms was 10,259,033, a decrease of 169,802, or 1.63 per cent, compared with last year. The greater reduction in the number of prescriptions dispensed compared with the number of forms is accounted for by the reduction in the average number of prescriptions per form over the period.

#### Dispensing doctors

Sixty-five doctors in 47 practices were required to dispense for some of their patients who, through distance or inadequacy of transport, would otherwise have had serious difficulty in obtaining medicines from a chemist. The number of doctors required to dispense was reduced by one and the number of practices by three compared with last year. The number of patients for whom these doctors were required to dispense was reduced by 2,235 compared with last year, the number at 31st March, 1969, being 62,999.

The amount paid to dispensing doctors during the year for dispensing was £179,702, an increase of £4,440, or 2.53 per cent, compared with last year. This increase is due to a greater use of the drugs included in the Special List for which doctors may claim recoupment.

No additions were made to the Special List during the year and the method of calculating dispensing doctors' remuneration was unaltered.

The amount collected by these doctors for prescription charges and forwarded to the Board was £7,433.

#### Administration

Throughout the year the Board again had very satisfactory service from their use of the Ministry of Finance computer. The revised payments to chemists, the reintroduction of prescription charges and certain changes in the statistical information required by the Board involved the computer staff in additional work which was expeditiously completed by them. Because of the work done by the computer the additional work falling on the staff of the Board's Pricing Bureau due to these changes was minimal and was easily absorbed without recruiting additional staff.

The Board, with the agreement of the pharmaceutical profession, issued to all chemists a small rubber stamp to mark those prescription forms which are exempt from prescription charges. By use of this method it was unnecessary to sort prescription forms into those subject to charges and those which are exempt or to count manually the number of prescriptions in either class, since an indication on the punch card for those prescriptions marked with the rubber stamp can be used by the computer to count the exempt prescriptions.

The staff of the Pricing Bureau undertook the work of extracting each month from July, 1968, a sample of prescription forms exempt from charges so that checks could be made by the Board's Medical Branch, the Ministry of Health and Social Services and the Ministry of Pensions on the declarations made by the public on the forms claiming exemption from prescription charges. The Bureau staff after extracting the sample of forms sorted them into the categories mentioned above.

### Drug testing scheme

During the year 99 tests of drugs and appliances were carried out. In 92 cases the results were satisfactory, in two cases where there was a small discrepancy in the dispensing the chemists were warned, and the remaining five cases, where the results were considered unsatisfactory, were referred to the Services Committee for investigation.

A summary of the results is given below:

<u>Result of test</u>	<u>Number of tests</u>
Satisfactory ... ... ... ... ...	92
Warning ... ... ... ...	2
Referred to Services Committee ... ...	5
Total	99
	=

### Inspection of pharmacies

During the year the Board's Pharmaceutical Officer visited a number of pharmacies to inspect the accommodation and equipment and the drugs, medicines and appliances held on the premises. In all cases they were found to be satisfactory.

### Investigations by the Services Committee

Six complaints against five chemists were investigated by the Services Committee. All the complaints arose out of drug tests.

In two complaints against one chemist he was found to have permitted the prescription to be dispensed otherwise than by or under the direct supervision of a registered pharmaceutical chemist and the dispensing of the prescription in this case was unsatisfactory. In four cases the chemists were found to have dispensed drugs not in accordance with the prescription. In one of the cases the Board ordered a deduction from remuneration, while in the remaining cases the Board ordered the chemist to be reprimanded and warned to exercise greater care. In addition, the Board ordered that the chemist in each case forgo the money due for dispensing the test prescription.

In addition, three cases, where the facts were not in dispute, were disposed of by the Board, with the consent of the chemist concerned, without a hearing or the imposition of a penalty other than a warning. All the cases arose out of test prescriptions. In two cases the prescription was found not completely in accordance with the doctor's order, while in the remaining case the chemist was found to have permitted the prescription to be dispensed otherwise than by or under the direct supervision of a registered pharmaceutical chemist.

## VI. EYE SERVICES

### Ophthalmic List

The number of persons and bodies providing eye services at 31st March, 1969, decreased by one from the previous year's figure and comprises 13 ophthalmic medical practitioners (13), 127 ophthalmic opticians (128) (including 22 in bodies corporate - ophthalmic), and 13 dispensing opticians (13) (including two in bodies corporate - ophthalmic and two in bodies corporate - dispensing).

The figures in brackets are those for last year and the figures below are for each County and Belfast County Borough:

		<u>Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners</u>	<u>Ophthalmic Opticians</u>	<u>Dispensing Opticians</u>	<u>Corporate Bodies</u>
Belfast	...	8	62	8	8
Antrim	...	3	15	2	1
Armagh	...	-	11	1	-
Down	...	1	12	-	-
Fermanagh	...	-	3	-	-
Londonderry	...	-	17	1	3
Tyrone	...	1	7	1	-
Northern Ireland	...	13	127	13	12
		=	=	=	=

### Demands on the Service

The number of sight tests carried out during the year was 175,049, a decrease of 3,114, or 1.75 per cent, on the previous year.

The following table shows the number of forms paid each month for sight testing, repairs and replacements, and dispensing for this year and last year:

Month	Sight testing		Repairs/Replacements (Sight tests not carried out)		Dispensing of glasses	
	1967-68	1968-69	1967-68	1968-69	1967-68	1968-69
April	12,184	12,779	352	370	12,915	13,538
May	11,826	11,041	562	467	11,837	10,549
June	12,731	13,957	491	373	12,387	12,009
July	12,866	10,713	385	308	11,203	11,165
August	8,876	9,944	487	510	8,981	10,402
September	12,021	10,989	333	307	10,648	10,756
October	14,284	14,058	383	329	12,942	10,618
November	14,906	16,635	580	576	13,343	14,648
December	13,963	12,997	423	335	13,591	13,944
	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>
January	9,603	10,744	312	353	11,116	10,806
February	13,443	12,511	573	548	12,652	12,809
March	14,729	11,966	336	360	13,376	11,466
Total	151,432	148,334	5,217	4,836	144,991	142,810

#### Premises and equipment

During the year the premises and equipment of five ophthalmic opticians and one ophthalmic medical practitioner were inspected and were approved by the Eye Services Committee for inclusion in the Board's Ophthalmic List.

#### Services Committee

Eight complaints against six ophthalmic opticians in which the facts were not in dispute were disposed of by the Board with the consent of the opticians without a hearing. In each case the optician was warned of the necessity to adhere to the Regulations.

Two further complaints against one of the above-mentioned ophthalmic opticians were investigated by the Services Committee. In one case the Board ordered the recovery of £25 from the optician, by deduction from his remuneration or otherwise, and in the other case the optician was warned of the necessity to adhere to the Regulations and the Board directed that his records be inspected by the Ophthalmic Officer.

## VII. HEALTH CENTRES, LOANS AND IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Considerable progress has been made during the year in establishing health centres throughout the province. There are now 12 centres in operation, namely -

### Belfast County Borough:

Diagnostic Centre, Ormeau Road

### County Antrim:

Ballyclare  
Finaghy  
Greenisland  
Whiteabbey  
Rasharkin

### County Armagh:

Craigavon (temporary building)

### County Down:

Newtownards

### County Fermanagh:

Irvinestown

### County Londonderry:

Bellaghy  
Garvagh  
Maghera

The following centres are in course of erection and are expected to be completed by the dates shown:-

### Belfast County Borough:

Upper Library Street (April, 1969)

### County Antrim:

Ballymoney (late 1969)  
Whitehead (mid-summer 1969)

### County Armagh:

Armagh (late 1969)

### County Londonderry:

Coleraine (late 1969)

Projects which are currently being actively considered or are at an advanced planning stage are -

Belfast County Borough:

Crumlin Road in Redevelopment Area No. 11  
Cullingtree Road in Redevelopment Area F1  
Dunville Park Area in Redevelopment Area F3/4  
Malvern Street in Redevelopment Area C  
Ormeau Road at Diagnostic Centre (a possible merger with the adjoining group practice is being investigated)  
Ormeau Road at Haypark Hospital Area  
Shore Road at Skegoneill Avenue  
Templemore Avenue at the Templemore Avenue Hospital  
Whiterock at the proposed Community Centre

County Antrim:

Andersonstown/Suffolk  
Ahoghill  
Antrim  
Ballymena  
Carrickfergus  
Cullybackey  
Dunmurry  
Glengormley  
Larne  
Lisburn  
Portglenone  
Randalstown

County Armagh:

Craigavon - Sector 1  
Crossmaglen  
Lurgan  
Portadown

County Down:

Ballynahinch  
Bangor  
Comber  
Crossgar  
Downpatrick  
Dundonald  
Gillford  
Holywood  
Kilkeel  
Newry  
Rathfriland  
Saintfield  
Warrenpoint

County Fermanagh:

Belleek  
Lisnackea

County Londonderry:

Claudy  
Draperstown  
Kilrea  
Limavady  
Moneymore  
Portstewart

Londonderry City:

Waterside Area  
Clarendon Street Area  
Riverview Area

County Tyrone:

Cookstown  
Dungannon  
Omagh

A substantial amount of experience has been gained from the health centres at present in operation, particularly the larger ones at Whiteabbey (nine general practitioners) and Newtownards (11 general practitioners) and this experience is being used to good advantage in the centres now being planned.

To assist general medical practitioners and others engaged in the planning of health centres, an exhibition has been mounted at the Board's offices at Adelaide Street, Belfast, showing a fully equipped general practitioner suite of 180 sq.ft., incorporating examination facilities, and a suite comprising a consulting room of 120 sq.ft., and an examination room of 60 sq.ft. Also displayed is a number of different types of filing systems for patients' clinical records.

Determining the accommodation to be provided in health centres is a complex matter calling for discussions with the various parties concerned. Participation by general medical practitioners in health centre projects is, of course, essential and once a viable number of doctors is interested in a particular centre the Board consult the other professions, namely, general dental practitioners, pharmacists and opticians. The Hospitals Authority is also asked whether any accommodation in the centre is required for hospital purposes. There has, throughout the year, been considerable activity among pharmacists in several areas where health centre projects are being discussed, and in each case where pharmacists wish to participate the Board ensure that the Pharmaceutical Society accords with the arrangements being made. Opticians have not indicated an interest to participate in any centre and in only one case have dentists, so far, shown an interest.

The present legislation in Northern Ireland dealing with health centres does not make provision for private practice from centres and this may be deterring some from participating. The Ministry is considering the question of the desirability of the legislation here being brought into line with that in Great Britain on this subject.

It is vital that health centres are planned to meet the changing needs of the Health Service. Accordingly, much thought is being given to functional organisation within centres. The Ministry of Health and Social Services has established a Health Centres Committee which, inter alia, is engaged in drawing up a Design Guide, incorporating information on standards of accommodation. With the rapid growth in Health Centre development the issue of this Design Guide at an early date will be useful so that the advice given can be incorporated in the large number of projects still to be planned.

General Medical Practitioner Loans

The scheme which came into operation in 1959 for loans to doctors entering into group practices was wound up during the year with a payment to a group of £6,000. Altogether 20 loans were made totalling £132,353 and repayments, including £7,283 received this year, amounted to £27,691. The balance outstanding is £104,662.

The scheme for interest-free loans to isolated single-handed medical practitioners has also ceased. No payments were made during the year, and the amount outstanding is £8,182. Sums totalling £11,249 had been issued in respect of seven loans, and repayments, including £833 in the current year, totalled £3,067.

The present loans scheme provides for loans of up to 100 per cent of the actual or approved cost of acquisition, alteration, enlargement, improvement or repair of practice premises at a fixed rate of interest for the period of the loan. Six applications were received during the year, but one was withdrawn in view of a health centre project in the area. Three loans have been delayed pending settlement of legal difficulties, and the other two, totalling £23,000, are nearing completion.

Improvement Grant Scheme

The improvement grant scheme provides for a grant of one-third of the cost of approved work carried out on the improvement of existing medical practice premises. During the year grants were made totalling £3,559 in respect of 16 projects and ranging from £66 to £595.

## VIII. SERVICES COMMITTEE

During the year 21 complaints, including one pending from the previous year, were considered by the Board. Eleven of these were disposed of without a full Services Committee investigation and one complaint against a doctor was withdrawn by the complainant during the hearing.

The nine complaints investigated were as follows:-

<u>Nature of complaint</u>	<u>Number of cases</u>	<u>Number in which a breach of the Terms of Service was found</u>
----------------------------	----------------------------	---

### General Medical Services

Failure to attend in emergency	1	0
--------------------------------	---	---

### Pharmaceutical Services

Unsatisfactory Drug Tests	6	6
---------------------------	---	---

### Supplementary Eye Services

Claiming payment for glasses not supplied on date certified	1	1
Failure to employ proper care and attention	1	1

In one case the Board, in addition to imposing a monetary penalty of £50 on a firm of chemists, ordered that the chemists forgo payment of the prescription. In another case, relating to two complaints against an ophthalmic optician, the Board imposed a monetary penalty of £25 and issued a warning.

Five warnings were issued against four chemists, one of whom had been found in breach of the Terms of Service in two complaints, and, in addition, the Board ordered that the chemists concerned forgo payment of the prescription.

### Appeals against decisions of the Board

During the year the Ministry dismissed an appeal by a doctor against the decision of the Board. The hearings of appeals by two doctors against decisions by the Board following Services Committee investigations are awaited.



## IX. PROPERTIES ADMINISTERED BY THE BOARD

All the properties administered by the Board are vested in the Ministry of Health and Social Services.

During the year the sale of a doctor's house was completed, and the balance of the purchase money received. The deposit had been received in the previous year. A deposit has been paid on the sale of another residence and the legal formalities were proceeding at the end of the year. This leaves six former dispensary properties unsold - four occupied by doctors in active practice, one by the Hospitals Authority and one by a Hospital Management Committee. Renovations carried out included the periodic external painting of a doctor's residence.

Health centres erected or leased through the Board are situated at Frederick Street, Newtownards, Upper Library Street, Belfast, and Ormeau Road, Belfast.



## X. FINANCE

Compared with the previous year, there was an increase of over three per cent in expenditure for the year ended 31st March, 1969.

Classified expenditure in the two years was as follows:-

	<u>1967-68</u>	<u>1968-69</u>	<u>Percentage Increase</u>
Administration	369,687	418,354	13.16
General Medical Services	3,489,868	3,737,825	7.11
General Dental Services	2,257,171	2,280,319	1.03
Pharmaceutical Services	6,679,832	6,763,532	1.25
Eye Services	349,170	361,585	3.56
Health Centres	20,240	24,455	20.83
	<u>£13,165,968</u>	<u>£13,586,070</u>	<u>3.19</u>

### Administration

Administration expenses worked out at three per cent of total expenditure, and exceeded the previous year by £48,667.

A five per cent general increase in salary scales added around £13,000, and increases in Selective Employment Tax and in National Insurance contributions a further £7,500. The employment of additional staff to deal with the issue of exemption certificates and the checking of claims for exemption from prescription charges cost approximately £2,500, but staff turn-over reduced the cost by £1,000. Salaries and wages, therefore, cost £22,100 more than in 1967-68.

Fees payable to members of the Dental Estimates Committee were down by £126 as fewer meetings were held. Travelling expenses and subsistence allowances cost £435 more due to more travelling by staff in connection with health centre projects and payments to candidates from Great Britain for medical practice vacancies.

Establishment expenses rose by £23,237, the largest increase being £16,370 for computer services paid to the Ministry of Finance. The other main increases were £1,109 on office furniture, £1,304 on office equipment arising mainly through the purchase of an offset printing machine, £2,773 for increased supplies of stationery and printing due to some extent to the reintroduction of prescription charges and £1,322 on the purchase of British National Formularies issued to doctors and chemists. Telephone charges went up in October, 1968, and with the abolition of the printed paper postage rate added £1,531. Alterations and repairs to premises cost £1,721 less due to non-recurrence of expenditure on office alterations made last year.

There was a decrease of £207 on doctors' residences due to a fall in expenditure of £472 on repairs and alterations. £521 was received in rent against £405 in 1967-68. An additional £1,900 was received, being the balance outstanding on the sale of one house and the deposit price on another.

The cost of providing professional and public health education rose by £3,228 due to payment of £1,697 more for travelling expenses and subsistence allowances than in last year, and £1,558 more to the Queen's University of Belfast from the grant for providing postgraduate education for doctors and dentists. More doctors attended courses, particularly doctors from Great Britain, while lecturers' fees and expenses have risen.

### General Medical Services

The increase in expenditure on general medical services over the previous year was £247,957. The highest increase was £87,183 for basic and supplementary practice allowances, the rates for which were increased from 1st April, 1968, by £100 and £20, respectively. The normal population increase resulted in £17,347 more paid in capitation fees. The number of night visit claims paid was almost double that of last year, but payments covered four quarters against three in 1967-68. Public policy services claims also covered a full year, costing £23,934 more than for three quarters last year plus an increase in the cytology fee, the introduction of measles vaccination under this heading and vaccinations following the poliomyelitis outbreak in November, 1968. Seniority allowances rose by £2,155, while allowances for assistants fell by £3,155 due to turnover in numbers during the year. Postgraduate training allowances were down by £4,600 as many doctors had already qualified for payment in previous years. The trainee practitioner scheme covered five trainees this year against one last year, while the special trainee scheme last year was not repeated. Six extended study leave grants were paid, two more than in last year. Particulars of recoupment of rent and rates and part recoupment of the salaries of ancillary staff are given in the sections covering these headings. Claims for rent and rates showed a rise of £4,425 and £37,453 more was paid out in respect of ancillary staff. A balance of £61,726 arrears of capitation fees for 1965-66 was paid during the year against £44,178 last year for the year 1964-65. Initial practice allowances of £3,848 were paid to two doctors setting up in new practices. Requests by doctors for disposable syringes and needles were less to the extent of £2,161.

Superannuation contributions payable by the Board rose by £7,764 accordingly.

The practice improvement fund was wound up during the year and a balance of £59,563 was paid to the Queen's University of Belfast towards the establishment of a Chair in General Practice.

Service and accommodation charges paid by the Board to local health authorities in respect of health centres will be recouped from the doctors concerned.

The group practice loans scheme has now ceased and only one loan of £6,000 was issued during the period. Repayments will continue, as well as repayments of loans to single-handed practitioners which ceased to be credited to the former practice improvement fund on 30th September, 1968.

### General Dental Services

General dental services cost £23,148 more than last year. The number of claims rose by 10,722, and the average cost per course of treatment by sevenpence, accounting for £63,700. The patients' portion of conservative treatment was increased with effect from 1st May, 1968, from 26s. Od. to 30s. Od. and this brought in £42,734 in additional charges. The increase was thus £20,966 and superannuation contributions payable by the Board rose in accordance with the gross increase.

### Pharmaceutical Services

Gross payments to chemists rose by £486,872, as although the number of prescription forms paid was down by nearly 15,000 the gross average out per form went up by 1/7.4d. to 20/7.71d. Patients' charges were reintroduced from 1st July, 1968, and seven months of these are reflected in the accounts. Prepayment certificates were introduced in November, 1968, and charges and prepayments totalled £325,753. Arrears payable this year were £18,991 against £93,633 in 1967-68. With a small increase in payments for rota services the net result in payments by the Board to chemists was an increase of £26,575.

Payments to dispensing doctors fell by £2,875 as charges receivable from patients totalled £7,433, more than offsetting the £4,440 paid for increased use of drugs from the special list. Superannuation contributions increased accordingly.

#### Eye Services

Sight testing fees to ophthalmic medical practitioners fell by £1,142 as the number of sight tests carried out by them was down by 869. The arrears of £194 paid in 1967-68 were non-recurring. Although the number of sight tests carried out by ophthalmic opticians fell by 2,229 the cost increased by £13,134 due to an increase in the fee with effect from 1st December, 1968, and the application of a previous increase for a full year.

The number of dispensing claims fell by 2,181 but the cost to the Board was up by £1,214 as increased fees effective from 1st October, 1967, were applicable for a full year. The cost of glasses decreased by £2,587 on the reduced numbers and repairs and replacements cost £267 less. Patients paid £2,301 less in charges on the reduced number of glasses dispensed.

The cost of eye services increased, therefore, by £12,415.

#### Health Centres

The cost of health centres this year was up by £4,215 on last year, principally due to payment of the balance of the cost of building the centre at Newtownards, the supply of furniture and equipment and payment for services recoupable from the doctors using the centre.

Although salaries of the staff administering the centre at Ormeau Road, Belfast, went up by £480, heating and lighting costs fell by £344, supply of medical and office equipment by £283, and repairs by £179. In addition, £632 was received by the Board from the local health authority for services and accommodation charges.



## APPENDIX A

### STATUTORY COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

#### Dental Estimates Committee

Appointed under Section 11 of the Health Services Act  
(Northern Ireland) 1948

#### Members of Board

J.A. McMullan, L.D.S., F.F.D. R.C.S.I. (Chairman)  
R.G. Chambers, L.D.S. (appointed 1st October, 1968)  
T.H. Dunseith, L.D.S.  
V.A. Hewitt, L.D.S., F.F.D. R.C.S.I.  
(retired 30th September, 1968)  
A. Millar, O.B.E.

#### Other Member

F.L. Stuart, L.D.S.

#### Drug Pricing Committee

Appointed under Section 14 of the Health Services Act  
(Northern Ireland) 1948

#### Members of Board

Professor O.L. Wade, M.A., M.D.(Cantab.), F.R.C.P. (Lond.)  
(Chairman)  
H.G. Campbell, M.P.S. (retired 30th September, 1968)  
D.L.W. Chapman, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., M.R.C.G.P.  
T.W. Currie, M.P.S., F.S.M.C.  
H.W. Gamble, O.B.E., M.P.S. (appointed 1st October, 1968)  
Mrs. M.C. Miskimmin, M.P.S., J.P.  
J.G. Stinson, M.P.S., F.B.O.A.

#### Other Members

R.N.M. Clarke, M.P.S. (from 1st October, 1968)  
J.J. Farrelly, M.P.S. (to 30th September, 1968)

### COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD OTHER THAN STATUTORY COMMITTEES

Appointed under paragraph 16 of the First Schedule  
to the Health Services Act (Northern Ireland) 1948

#### Dental Advisory Committee

#### Members of Board

J.A. McMullan, L.D.S., F.F.D. R.C.S.I. (Chairman)  
R.G. Chambers, L.D.S. (appointed 1st October, 1968)  
T.H. Dunseith, L.D.S.  
V.A. Hewitt, L.D.S., F.F.D. R.C.S.I.  
(retired 30th September, 1968)

#### Other Members

R.G. Chambers, L.D.S. (to 30th September, 1968)  
N.R. Elvis, L.D.S. (from 1st October, 1968)  
W.H. Morrow, L.D.S.  
R.M. McLeod, L.D.S.

Executive Committee

Members of Board

J.P. Duff, C.B.E., J.P. (Chairman)  
W.H. Belford, M.D., F.R.C.S., M.R.C.G.P., J.P.  
(retired 30th September, 1968)

H.G. Campbell, M.P.S. (retired 30th September, 1968)  
T.W. Currie, M.P.S., F.M.S.C. (from 1st October, 1968)  
G. Duffy, B.A., LL.B.

H.W. Gooding, O.B.E., F.R.I.C.S.

J. Hanna, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., M.R.C.G.P.  
(from 1st October, 1968)

V.A. Hewitt, L.D.S., F.F.D. R.C.S.I.  
(retired 30th September, 1968)

A. Millar, O.B.E.

P. McAnallen, F.B.O.A.

J.A. McMullan, L.D.S., F.F.D. R.C.S.I.  
(from 1st October, 1968)

J.McC. Rea

Eye Services Committee

Members of Board

A. Millar, O.B.E. (Chairman)

A.E. Barbour, B.Sc., F.B.O.A. (appointed 1st October, 1968)

T.W. Currie, M.P.S., F.S.M.C.

H.H. Mitchell, F.B.O.A., F.S.M.C. (retired 30th September, 1968)

P. McAnallen, F.B.O.A.

J.G. Stinson, M.P.S., F.B.O.A.

Other Members

J.A. Doris, F.B.O.A., F.S.M.C.

H.C.W. Rundle, F.B.O.A., F.S.M.C.

Finance and General Purposes Committee

Members of Board

A. Millar, O.B.E. (Chairman)

T.W. Currie, M.P.S., F.S.M.C. (to 30th September, 1968)

J.P. Duff, C.B.E., J.P.

T.H. Dunseith, L.D.S. (from 1st October, 1968)

H.W. Gamble, O.B.E., M.P.S. (appointed 1st October, 1968)

J. Hanna, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., M.R.C.G.P.  
(to 30th September, 1968)

J. Morrow, A.C.A., A.C.I.S., F.C.C.S.

J.A. McMichael

J.A. McMullan, L.D.S., F.F.D. R.C.S.I. (to 30th September, 1968)

J.G. Stinson, M.P.S., F.B.O.A.

C. Vance, M.B.E.

Lady Wallace, O.B.E., B.A., LL.B.

N.D. Wright, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., F.R.C.G.P.  
(appointed 30th September, 1968)

## Health Centres Committee

### Members of Board

Professor J. Pemberton,  
M.D.(Lond.), F.R.C.P.(Lond.), M.R.C.S.(Eng.), D.P.H.  
(Chairman) (appointed 1st October, 1968)  
H.G. Campbell, M.P.S. (retired 30th September, 1968)  
R.G. Chambers, L.D.S. (appointed 1st October, 1968)  
D.L.W. Chapman, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., M.R.C.G.P.  
T.H. Dunseith, L.D.S. (to 30th September, 1968)  
H.W. Gooding, O.B.E., F.R.I.C.S. (to 30th September, 1968)  
A. Millar, O.B.E.  
Mrs. M.C. Miskimmin, M.P.S., J.P. (from 1st October, 1968)  
P. McAllanen, F.B.O.A. (from 1st October, 1968)  
J.McA. Taggart, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H., D.P.A., F.R.S.H.  
Lady Wallace, O.B.E., B.A., LL.B.  
Lt.Col. D.G.C. Whyte, D.S.O., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.F.R., J.P.  
(retired 30th September, 1968)  
N.D. Wright, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., F.R.C.G.P.  
(appointed 1st October, 1968)

### Other Members

W. Harvey, O.B.E., B.Sc.(Econ.), F.S.A.A., F.C.I.S., F.H.A.  
Professor J. Pemberton,  
M.D.(Lond.), F.R.C.P.(Lond.), M.R.C.S.(Eng.), D.P.H.  
(to 30th September, 1968)  
S. Pennington, M.A.(Cantab.)

## Medical Advisory Committee

### Members of Board

J. Hanna, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., M.R.C.G.P. (Chairman)  
W.H. Belford, M.D., F.R.C.S., M.R.C.G.P., J.P.  
(retired 30th September, 1968)  
D.L.W. Chapman, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., M.R.C.G.P.  
Professor J. Pemberton,  
M.D.(Lond.), F.R.C.P.(Lond.), M.R.C.S.(Eng.), D.P.H.  
(appointed 1st October, 1968)  
J.McA. Taggart, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H., D.P.A., F.R.S.H.  
Professor O.L. Wade, M.A., M.D.(Cantab.), F.R.C.P.(Lond.)  
Lt.Col. D.G.C. Whyte, D.S.O., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.F.R., J.P.  
(retired 30th September, 1968)  
N.D. Wright, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., F.R.C.G.P.  
(appointed 1st October, 1968)

### Other Members

T. Horner, M.D., M.R.C.G.P., D.Obst.R.C.O.G.  
D.T. Patton, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.

## Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee

### Members of Board

T.W. Currie, M.P.S., F.S.M.C. (Chairman)  
H.G. Campbell, M.P.S. (retired 30th September, 1968)  
H.W. Gamble, O.B.E., M.P.S. (appointed 1st October, 1968)  
Mrs. M.C. Miskimmin, M.P.S., J.P.  
J.G. Stinson, M.P.S., F.B.O.A.

### Other Members

R.N.M. Clarke, M.P.S. (to 30th September, 1968)  
J.J. Farrelly, M.P.S. (from 1st October, 1968)  
J.C. Gouk, M.P.S.

APPENDIX BDETAILS OF BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

		<u>Number of Members</u>	<u>Number of Meetings</u>	<u>Percentage Attendance</u>
Board	...	24	12	70
Dental Advisory Committee	...	6	3	76
Dental Estimates Committee	...	5	22	86
Drug Pricing Committee	...	7	3	76
Executive Committee	...	9	10	70
Extended Study Leave Committee	...	4	2	75
Eye Services Committee	...	7	8	84
Finance and General Purposes Committee	10	10	12	58
General Practitioner Loans and Improvement Grants Committee	...	8	4	73
Health Centres Committee	...	11	3	59
Medical Advisory Committee	...	8	8	65
Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee	6	5	80	

In addition, there were several meetings of ad hoc Committees for staff appointments and promotions, and for the short-listing and selection of candidates for vacant medical practices.

APPENDIX CSTATISTICAL REPORT IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1969GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES

## MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS (Principals)

## Number of doctors on Board's List -

As at 31st March, 1968	...	...	746
Additions during the year	...	...	33
Resignations during the year	...	...	20
Deaths during the year	...	...	14
As at 31st March, 1969	...	...	745

## MEDICAL ASSISTANTS

## Number of doctors employing assistants

(in 63 practices) ...	...	...	92
Number of assistants employed	...	...	60
Number of principals who also act as assistants	...	...	2

## MEDICAL PARTNERSHIPS

## Number of partnerships -

Dual	...	...	...	...	143
Triple	...	...	...	...	54
Quadruple	...	...	...	...	12
Total number of doctors employed	...	...	...	...	496

## PERSONS ON DOCTORS' LISTS

## Total number on doctors' lists as at 1st April,

1968	...	...	...	...	1,533,722
------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----------

Placed on lists during the year	...	...	...	...	175,585
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Removed from lists during the year	...	...	...	...	157,392
------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---------

## Total number on doctors' lists as at 31st March,

1969	...	...	...	...	1,551,915
------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----------

## TEMPORARY RESIDENTS

## Number of temporary residents treated ...

30,460
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VARIATIONS IN DOCTORS' LISTS OVER THE YEAR

Total number of persons added -

(a) Through change of doctor (9,004 were transfers in the same area, e.g., for personal reasons) ... ... ...	122,494
(b) New entries and reinstatements ... ...	40,163
(c) Transfers from doctors in Great Britain	<u>12,928</u>

Total number of persons withdrawn -

(a) Through transfer to another doctor ...	56,234
(b) Through death or retirement of doctors	62,156
(c) Through transfer to doctors in Great Britain ... ... ...	13,240
(d) Through death, emigration, enlistment or departure of patients from Northern Ireland ... ... ...	22,751
(e) At request of doctor ... ... ...	981
(f) At request of patient ... ... ...	-
(g) Duplicate registrations eliminated ...	131
(h) Not known at last address available to Board ... ... ...	1,233
(i) Removed out of district ... ... ...	466
(j) Committal to H.M. Prisons and Borstal	23
(k) Patients in Mental Hospitals ... ...	<u>177</u>

Net increase in doctors' lists ... ... ... 18,193

NUMERICALLY GROUPED PRACTICES

Grouping of numbers on principal doctors' lists -

		<u>Doctors in single practice</u>	<u>Doctors in partnership</u>
Principals with no persons on lists	...	-	7
Principals with -			
1 - 100 persons on lists	...	2	23
101 - 500 " " "	...	11	53
501 - 1,000 " " "	...	11	57
1,001 - 1,500 " " "	...	37	56
1,501 - 2,000 " " "	...	60	53
2,001 - 2,500 " " "	...	56	55
2,501 - 3,000 " " "	...	33	50
3,001 - 3,500 " " "	...	26	47
3,501 - 4,000 " " "	...	6	46
4,001 - 4,500 " " "	...	3	38
4,501 - 5,000 " " "	...	1	7
5,001 - 5,500 " " "	...	2	2
5,501 - 6,000 " " "	...	1	1
6,001 - 6,500 " " "	...	-	-
6,501 and over " " "	...	<u>—</u>	<u>1</u>
		249	496
		<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
Average number on a principal's list ...			2,083

COST OF MEDICAL SERVICES

Payments to General Medical Practitioners:

Basic and Supplementary Practice	
Allowance	£969,346
Capitation Fees	1,695,298
Payments for Treatment of Temporary Residents	34,250
Fees for Emergency Treatment	2,043
Fees for service as Anaesthetist	199
Night Visit Fees	14,237
Fees for the Arrest of Dental Haemorrhage	88
Fees for Public Policy Services	41,607
Group Practice Allowance	56,150
Seniority Allowances	187,665
Addition for Employment of an Assistant	8,757
Rural Practitioners' Fund	140,861
Postgraduate Training Allowances	6,700
Initial Practice Allowance	3,848
Vocational Training Allowance	331
Scheme of Training for General Practice	2,288
Extended Study Leave	1,187
Additional Payments during Sickness	8,422
Direct Payment of Rent and Rates	118,500
Direct Payment for Ancillary Staff	125,348
Supply of Disposable Syringes	10,976
Practice Improvement Grants	3,559
Final Payment of Capitation Fees - 1965/66	61,726

Superannuation:

Contributions paid by the Board in respect of medical practitioners (excluding payments in respect of Dispensing Fees)	185,903	£3,679,289
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Practice Improvement Fund:

Paid to Queen's University, Belfast	59,563	
Less Repayments by single-handed Practitioners on Loans to 30th September, 1968	428	59,135

Local Health Authorities - Health Centres:

Service and Accommodation Charges (to be recouped from doctors)	1,089
	£3,739,513

Loans to General Medical Practitioners:

Group Practice Loans Scheme:	
Repayments	7,283
Loan issued	6,000
	1,283

Loans to single-handed Practitioners:

Repayments (1st October, 1968 - 31st March, 1969)	405	1,688
		£3,737,82

GENERAL DENTAL SERVICES

## DENTAL PRACTITIONERS

Number on Board's List as at 1st April, 1968 ...	326
Additions during the year ... ... ...	25
Deaths, resignations, etc., during the year ...	19
Number on Board's List as at 31st March, 1969	332

## DENTAL PARTNERSHIPS

Number of dentists in 21 partnerships (including two triple partnerships) ... ...	44
--	----

## DENTAL ASSISTANTS

Principals who also act as assistants ... ... ...	5
Assistants not on Board's List ... ...	<u>71</u> 76

## EMPLOYMENT OF ASSISTANTS

Dentists employing one assistant ... ... ...	39
Dentists employing two assistants ... ...	11
Partnerships employing one assistant ... ...	6
Partnerships employing two assistants ... ...	1
Partnerships employing three assistants ...	1
Partnerships employing four assistants ...	1

## COST OF DENTAL SERVICES

Gross Fees ... ... ... ...	£2,549,149
<u>Less</u> Charges to Patients ... ... ...	<u>363,863</u>
	£2,185,286
<u>Less</u> Other Miscellaneous Receipts ... ...	<u>214</u>
	£2,185,072
Superannuation contributions paid by the Board in respect of dental practitioners ... ...	<u>95,247</u>
	£2,280,319

## Average cost per Dental Form:

Gross ... ... ... ...	£4. 5. 8.
<u>Less</u> average contribution by patient (approximately 57 per cent are in exempted classes and are excluded from contributions for treatment) ... ... ...	<u>12. 3.</u>
	£3.13. 5.

PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES

## PHARMACEUTICAL LIST

	Chemists	Appliance contractors	Total
--	----------	--------------------------	-------

## A. Contractors:

Number on Board's List as at 1st April, 1968 ...	609	15	624
Additions during the year ...	27	1	28
Withdrawals during the year ...	35	4	39
Number on Board's List as at 31st March, 1969 ...	601	12	613

		<u>Chemists</u>	<u>Appliance contractors</u>	<u>Total</u>
B. Premises:				
Number of shops as at 1st April, 1968	... ... ... ...	654	17	671
Additions during the year	...	36	1	37
Withdrawals during the year	...	40	4	44
Number of shops as at 31st March, 1969	... ... ... ...	650	14	664

#### DISPENSING MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

1-4-68    1-4-69

Number of doctors dispensing for some of their patients ... ... ... ...		66	65
Number of patients on dispensing lists		65,234	62,999

#### PRESCRIPTION FORMS

Number of prescription forms dispensed in the year		6,564,331
Number of prescription forms paid in the year		£6,645,344

#### COST OF PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES

<u>Services provided by Chemists:</u>			
Cost of prescriptions dispensed from February, 1968, to January, 1969, inclusive ... ... ... ...		£6,881,766	
<u>Less Charges to Patients, etc. . . . .</u>		<u>325,753</u>	
		£6,556,013	
Payment of arrears in respect of 1967/68 ... ... ... ...		18,991	
Payments for Rota Services ...		<u>9,172</u>	£6,584,176
<u>Services provided by Dispensing Doctors:</u>			
Drug Capitation Fees and Remuneration based on Drug Tariff ... ...		£179,702	
<u>Less Charges to Patients . . . . .</u>		<u>7,433</u>	
		£172,269	
Superannuation contributions paid by the Board in respect of Dispensing Doctors		<u>7,087</u>	179,356
		£6,763,532	

#### EYE SERVICES

##### OPHTHALMIC LIST

		<u>As at</u>	<u>As at</u>
		<u>31-3-68</u>	<u>31-3-69</u>
Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners	... ...	13	13
Ophthalmic Opticians	... ...	128	127
Dispensing Opticians	... ...	13	13

Twelve Bodies Corporate (11 ophthalmic and one dispensing) are registered in the List and 22 ophthalmic and four dispensing opticians are employed in these bodies and are included in the number of opticians shown above.

APPLICATIONS FOR EYE SERVICES

Number of sight tests paid during the year ...	148,334
Number of claims paid for repairs and replacements	4,836
Number of claims for dispensing of glasses paid during the year ... ... ... ...	142,810

COST OF EYE SERVICES

Sight Testing: Practitioners ... ...	£11,305	
Opticians ... ...	<u>143,443</u>	£154,748
Dispensing Fees ... ...	185,859	
Supply of Glasses ... ...	211,613	
Repairs and Replacements ... ...	<u>4,909</u>	
 <u>Less</u> Charges to Applicants ... ...	£557,129	
	<u>195,135</u>	
 <u>Less</u> Other Miscellaneous Receipts ... ...	361,994	
	<u>409</u>	
	£361,585	
	<u>=====</u>	

AVERAGE COST OF DISPENSING AND SUPPLY OF GLASSES

Gross cost per dispensing form ... ...	£2.15. 8.
<u>Less</u> average contribution by applicant ...	<u>1. 7. 4.</u>
	£1. 8. 4.
	<u>=====</u>

HEALTH CENTRES

ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES

Ormeau Road, Belfast ... ... ...	£6,148	
<u>Less</u> Accommodation and Services Charge ...	<u>632</u>	£5,516
Newtownards, Co. Down ... ... ...	£19,523	
<u>Less</u> Services Charge ... ...	<u>603</u>	18,920
Upper Library Street, Belfast ... ...	<u>19</u>	
	£24,455	
	<u>=====</u>	

ADMINISTRATION

ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES

Salaries, Wages and Fees ... ...	£284,019
Travelling and Subsistence ... ...	2,947
Establishment Expenses ... ...	<u>108,557</u>
	£395,523

PROPERTIES

Ground Rents, Insurance, etc.	...	...	...	£36
Repairs and Alterations	...	...	...	414
Proceeds of Sale of Premises distributed				
to Local Authorities	...	...	...	1,856
Expenses of Sale of Premises	...	...	...	<u>42</u>
				£2,348
<u>Less</u> Proceeds of Sale of Premises	...	...	£1,900	
Rents received	...	...	<u>521</u>	<u>2,421</u>
				(73)

PROFESSIONAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION

Refresher Courses and Lectures for Doctors			£5,410
Refresher Courses for Dentists	...	...	160
Refresher Course for Chemists	...	...	201
Refresher Course for Opticians	...	...	163
Publication for Doctors:			
"Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin"	...	...	1,730
Q.U.B. Grant for Medical Postgraduate Education			15,172
Consulting Suite Exhibition for Doctors			<u>68</u>
			<u>22,904</u>
			£418,354
			<u>=====</u>

SUMMARY

		Total cost	Per cent of total	Cost per head of population
General Medical Services	...	£3,737,825	27.51	£2. 9. 9.
General Dental Services	...	2,280,319	16.79	1.10. 4.
Pharmaceutical Services	...	6,763,532	49.78	4.10. 1.
Eye Services	...	361,585	2.66	4.10.
Health Centres	...	24,455	.18	4.
Administration Expenses	....	395,450	2.91	5. 3.
Professional and Public Health Education	...	<u>22,904</u>	<u>.17</u>	<u>4.</u>
		£13,586,070	100.00	£9. 0.11.
		<u>=====</u>	<u>=====</u>	<u>=====</u>
1967-68		£13,165,968		£8.17. 2.
		<u>=====</u>	<u>=====</u>	<u>=====</u>

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2. *Georg*  
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